

# Sonshine Preschool



Hello-

Where has the school year gone? How is it the month of May *already*?! Hats off to our outstanding Sonshine Preschool staff, you REALLY, TRULY are the VERY BEST! I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of you wonderful parents for your help in making this a memorable year. Your children, each one of them, are terrific! Thanks for supporting me during my 1st year as Director. I truly believe in this Christian ministry and have tried to blend the past 40 years of Sonshine with fresh, new ideas.

I want to extend a HUGE heartfelt thanks to my hard-working Assistant Director, Amanda Banwart. I really appreciate ALL your hard work and your ability to roll with the punches, on a DAILY BASIS. I am so grateful. Thanks for working so hard for Sonshine!! And last, but not least, I'd like to thank – Ms. Cheryl, Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Moten, Ms. Nicole, Mrs. Montes, Ms. Madi, Ms. Nilza, Ms. Cassie, Ms. Dani, Ms. Emily, Ms. Prairie, Ms. Fatima, Ms. Kim, Ms. Mikayla, Ms. Taylor, and Ms. Malory for all your hard work and dedication to this program. Sonshine Preschool is what it is because of all of you!

From our family to yours - have a safe, terrific, fun-filled summer, and to some of you- we will see you through the summer- and again when school resumes August 1<sup>st</sup>!

*Mrs. Castillo*



## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, May 09th**  
Scholastic Book Order Due

**Wednesday May 22nd**  
**8:45AM**  
Promotion for Pre-K students going to Kinder

**Wednesday May 22nd**  
Last Day of School **closing at 3:00pm**



**Please note: Sonshine Preschool will close early at 3:00pm on Wednesday May 22nd (the last day of school) Please plan accordingly.**

## Sonshine Pre-K Promotion 2024!

We are excited for our Pre-K promotion! This special event will take place on **Wednesday, May 22nd at 8:45 AM** in the church sanctuary. **Pre-K children will need to be in their classroom no later than 8:30AM.** The sanctuary will be open at 8:15 AM for you to enter through the Fellowship Hall. There will be signs to lead the way. Seating will be limited. Congratulations Butterflies!!

## Summer Camp

Summer Camp begins Monday, June 3rd camp runs for 6 weeks with closures on Wednesday June 19th for Juneteenth and Thursday July 4th and Friday July 5th for Independence Day. Children are registered by the week during the summer.

Our themes this year are as follows:

**Weeks 1 & 2 – Camp Out with Us & Family Appreciation Week**

**Weeks 3 & 4 – Solar System**

**Weeks 5 & 6 – Under the Sea and Shark Week**

## Sonshine's Carnival!

Thank you to everyone who attended our celebration! We had a blast and hope that you did too. Thanks to everyone who worked at the carnival, and to those of you who donated baked goods, we really appreciate you all!

## From our Teacher's Corner...

### Busy Bees

The months are just flying by and it's almost summer. The temperatures are getting warmer so please apply sunscreen daily and dress kiddos in cooler clothing. You can also bring sunscreen for us to apply on your child. Be sure to label the bottle. Please be sure that your child has a weather appropriate change of clothes at school. We have a lot of winter weather extra clothes that need to be switched out for the warmer weather. This month we will be learning about butterflies, bugs, and talking about our wonderful mothers. We will be creating a special Mother's Day gift for all our moms.

Happy Birthday to  
You!

Sebastian Hawley

Ayda Sweet

Jenner Hoy

Ms. Madi- May 26th



### Chapel Time

April 30th & May 2nd

May 7th & 9th

May 14th & 16th



### May Pizza Fun Days

Wednesday May 1st

Friday May 10th

Wednesday May 15th



## Fireflies

Wow, we can't believe how fast the year has flown by! All the children have grown so much! May will be full, learning about bugs and the life cycle of a butterfly. The children will also be making a very special gift to give their mother on Mother's Day.

If your child is attending our summer sessions, please make sure they have extra clothes (that are appropriate for the summer season), that they wear sunscreen, and have a water bottle daily.

\*Reminder: Your child must be COMPLETELY potty-trained before their first day in the Ladybugs classroom. Message us with any questions.

## Ladybugs

The school year is coming to a close and we've thoroughly enjoyed working with you and your child. It has been a joy to watch them grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We have prepared them for the Pre-K Butterfly class, and next year they will be preparing for Kindergarten. It will be here before you know it. Hopefully, we will see some of you at our summer camp.

Warning, Warning, Warning! The month of May is messy and fun! We are studying the life cycle of the butterfly with live caterpillars.

Thank you to all our parents who helped at the carnival. We're wishing everyone a great Summer!

## Pre-K Butterflies

Hard to believe the month of May is here! It's amazing how much your children have grown this year. From learning about each other's families, singing at the Christmas program, the Family Pizza Fun Day Lunch, cooking Green Eggs and Ham, visiting the Reid Park Zoo, creating lots of fun crafts, learning through "play", and enjoying our CARNIVAL, this has been a terrific year! We've been the lucky ones to have watched your children grow and blossom before our eyes this year. Each of them has made progress this year. Their motor skills have improved week by week, either by cutting with scissors, writing their names, and playing with sand, water and playdough! They can all speak with kindness to others and express their needs. This is a fantastic group and we've enjoyed each and every minute spent with them. Thanks for sharing your children with us. Parents, you've done a wonderful job in preparing your children for school.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 22nd at 8:45am for our Pre- K Promotion!!!

We wish you and your family the very best of everything that life has to offer! Please keep in touch with us! We love to see your children and hear about how they are doing after they've left Sonshine.

The Pre-K Teaching Team

Mrs. Montes, Miss Madi, & Ms. Nilza

## Reminders:

**Scholastic Book Order due: Thursday, May 09th** Remember, you can place your order online at the following website [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs) and follow Parent links. Our school code is GPL3F. Your books will be delivered to Sonshine at no charge. Please see Amanda, or email her at [abanwart@sonshineprek.org](mailto:abanwart@sonshineprek.org) if you have any questions.

**Friday, May 17th: Session 1 Tuition Due**

**Wednesday May 22nd: Annual Pre-K Promotion**

All Butterflies and their families are invited to attend

**Wednesday, May, 22nd:** Last Day of school- please mark your calendar! **Closing at 3:00pm**

**Thursday, May 23rd through Friday, May 31st No school** for Summer Break

**Sonshine Preschool Summer Program:** Please refer to registration materials to sign up. Please remember we **close earlier at 4:30pm** during the summer.

**Monday, June 3rd:** First day Summer Program

**Wednesday June 19th:** Closed for Juneteenth

**Thursday July 4th & Friday July 5th:** Closed for Independence Day

**Friday, July 12th:** Last day of Summer Program

**Monday, July 15th through Wednesday, July 31st: *\*\*Please mark your calendars\*\**** Sonshine Preschool closed.

**Thursday, August 1st:** First day of 24/25 school year.

## Parent Business Connection

Would you like to place your business card in our Parent Connection section of our monthly newsletter? We distribute this newsletter to current and new prospective parents. The fee is \$10.00 per month for a business card ad, or \$35.00 for a business card ad for 4 consecutive months. We have limited space. If you would like to advertise in our next newsletter, please email Amanda at [abanwart@sonshineprek.org](mailto:abanwart@sonshineprek.org), or call the office at 885-1045.

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## **YOUR SPECIAL CHILDREN AND SPECIAL TIME**

Special Time may not be the answer to every childhood problem, but it is almost magical the way such a short period of time can make such a huge difference in your child's mood and behavior. The tool is positive undivided attention for a limited amount of time in nondirective play every day. All that is needed is 10 minutes per day in order to be effective and satisfying. The five elements are: positive attention, undivided attention, time-limited play, nondirective play, and consistency. These combine to deliver a powerful message that helps a child feel loved and appreciated. As a result, behavior improves, and your relationship with your child becomes more playful, joyful and loving.

### **Positive Attention**

During the special designated time there will be no teaching, correcting, competition, criticism or reprimands. Instead you will simply play, show your child you are listening, and notice all the appropriate behaviors and actions. The more enthusiasm you show the more encouraged your child will be to continue those appropriate behaviors. For example, "Look at all of those bright colors you're using in your rainbow!" or "You built a ramp for your cars to go down!" as well as an occasional "I'm really enjoying playing with you" and hugs are all forms of positive attention.

Prepare three different activities and allow the child to choose from among those three. Some suggestions for activities that are noncompetitive and have no "right" or "wrong" way of doing them are Lego's, other building toys, Mr. Potato Head, Play Doh, and any art activity, cars and trucks, doll houses, or farm animals.

### **Undivided attention**

During special time, refrain from taking phone calls, going to the bathroom, talking to other family members or anything else that would keep you from giving your complete attention. Your child will quickly learn that during special time, he will have you all to himself. Choose a time of day when undivided attention is most likely possible such as when a spouse is home to take care of the other children, when younger children are in bed, or early in the morning before others in the family are awake.

### **Time Limited Play**

Set a limit on the time for special time and stick to it. It is difficult to sustain the level of positive attention, listening and enthusiasm that is required. It is more effective to have special time consistently every day for a short period of time than to have a long special time once a week. At the end of special time, say, "Special time is over. Now its bath time/story time/snack time." End with a hug, and a positive comment; such as "I sure had fun playing with you!"

### **Nondirective play**

Nondirective play means that the child is in charge of the play and can play with the toys in whatever way he chooses. Avoid asking questions or making suggestions. Follow along with the child and try describing what he is doing, praising him, imitating him, and reflecting what he's saying, and demonstrating enthusiasm. If the play is destructive or unsafe, remove the toy and redirect your child to another toy, if he continues to be destructive, or unsafe remove the toy, say, "Special time is over. Maybe tomorrow you will play more gently with the toys." Then, in a non-angry way, you can transition to bath time or story time.

### **Consistency**

One of the most important aspects of special time is that children quickly learn they can count on it every day. If you only have special time four days a week that's OK, as long as your child knows the pattern. It's important not to use special time as leverage, i.e.: "If you don't behave we won't have special time tonight!"

Special time is based on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy developed by Toni Hembree-Kigin and Cheryl Bodiford McNiel



Do you ever have a question regarding your child and don't know who to ask? Check out the Southwest Human Development's Birth to Five Helpline. Southwest Human Development's Birth to Five Helpline is Arizona's only toll-free resource for parents, caregivers and professionals who have questions or concerns about the development of children ages birth to 5.



**THE APP IS HERE!**

We're excited to launch the all-new  
**Birth to Five Helpline app!**

The Birth to Five helpline app allows you to easily **one-click call, text or email the Birth to Five Helpline** early childhood specialists directly from your phone.

Plus, you can visit **BirthToFiveHelpline.org**, donate or visit the Southwest Human Development and First Things First websites directly from the app!

The best part? Once the app is downloaded on your phone, there is no need to memorize the phone number!

**DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY!**

